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CONGRESS.—In the U. S. Senate, on Saturday, after considerable debate, the bill to punish frauds against the government was amended and passed. The bill provides that all offenders in the naval or land forces be tried by court martial. In the House, the committee on elections reported against the right of Mr. Piggott to a seat in that body. A bill was reported to establish a navy-yard on the western borders. The reports declaring that J. B. McLeod was not entitled to a seat in the House as a member from the second congressional district of Virginia, and John B. Rodgers as a member from Tennessee, were adopted. In the Iowa contested election case the committee was discharged from its further consideration.

The following order, dated Head Quarters of the Army of the Potomac, Feb. 15, has been issued by Gen. Hooker:

"Subsistence stores may be sold and issued to citizens residing within the limits of the army, of commissaries of subsistence under the following restrictions:

First—A certificate, under oath of the purchaser that he is without the means of subsistence, and that he is unable to sustain life without being permitted to make such purchases.

The certificates to be approved by the corps commander to whom application is made, who may thereon direct the sales. Such sales shall not at one time exceed the quantity necessary to sustain the applicant and the members of his family five days.

Second—Issues to destitute citizens may be made under the same restrictions, upon returns approved by the provost marshal general of the army of the Potomac. The parties in all cases will be required to take the oath of allegiance before sales or issues are made to them.

Within the last few weeks a party of Washington contractors under Capt. Krause, numbering seventy-five, have been quite active in burying the carcasses of dead horses. At Arlington, two hundred and sixty have been buried; near Eckington (Gales' woods,) two hundred and forty; above Georgetown, between three and four hundred; at the upper end of Twenty-first st., two hundred; and near the Almshouse, about two hundred; making, in all, between twelve and thirteen hundred.

The late Federal victory at Fort Donelson was won, it now appears, by the gunboats, which reached the scene of action and commenced throwing shells among the Confederates after the Federal forces had been entirely surrounded by the enemy. The Federals had their last round of artillery ammunition in the guns when the gunboats arrived.

The President on Saturday granted a pardon to Henry Williams, who was convicted about five years since of manslaughter, in killing Reeve Lewis and assaulting Isaac Entwisle, in Washington, and sentenced to the penitentiary for eight years. The pardon states that he has already served five eighths of his term.

FROM VICKSBURG.—A despatch from Cairo informs us that the levees on the Mississippi side of the river have been cut by the Federal forces twelve miles below Helena, at Yazoo Pass, also at Greenville, and on the Louisiana side, opposite Lake Providence. The object of this is probably to flood the country near Lake Providence, and thereby assist in opening communication with the newly projected cut off. The ram Vicksburg has been protected against further attacks by the Union "South-down," as Col. Ellett's ram is termed, by mooring barges alongside. The Confederate ram was not materially injured by her collision with the Queen of the West, as on the afternoon of the 2d she dropped down from her moorings, and poured a few shells into the Union camps at Warrenton, at the mouth of the cut off.—The Confederates continue to labor upon her, and, unless destroyed, she may yet prove a formidable antagonist. A brigade of Gen. McArthur's division is at work upon the new cut off from Lake Providence, on the Louisiana side of the river. The telegraph line connecting Lake Providence with the Confederate stations below, has been cut by a body of the Union troops who went from Richmond and Tallula, La., for the purpose. Subsequently the town of Richmond was shelled, and an important point of observation was possessed by the Union forces.

A post office has been re-established at Portsmouth, Va., and John O. Lawrence appointed postmaster.

The anticipated combined naval and military attack on Charleston and Savannah is generally believed to have been postponed for a short time, as Gen. Foster has returned to Washington on a secret mission.

Major General Sumner passed through Baltimore yesterday to Washington, and Major Gen. Foster arrived on Saturday in the steamship Spaulding, from Port Royal, and immediately proceeded to Washington. It is understood that General Foster will return immediately to South Carolina.

The Confederate privateer Alabama arrived at Kingston, Ja., on the 20th ult., with the officers and crew of the U. S. steamer Hatteras, in her encounter with which vessel she is reported to have been somewhat injured.

General orders from the War Department authorizing the enlistments of volunteers into the regular service, have been rescinded.

The Senate has ratified the treaty by which the Kaw Indians are to be removed from Kansas and settled elsewhere, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made by the Indian Bureau.

Bills have been prepared and only await an opportunity to be reported from the select committee on emancipation, appropriating ten millions of dollars for the abolishment of slavery in Maryland, one million and a half for West Virginia, and four hundred and fifty thousand dollars for Delaware. The same committee has also agreed upon a bill to establish a board of emigration in connection with the War Department.

From New Orleans.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The steamer Empire City, from New Orleans on the 4th instant, arrived at ten o'clock this evening. The forces under Gen. Banks, after several months' drilling, are in a condition to take the field.—It was thought a forward movement would be made at once to clear out the whole Lafourche country.

On the 3d instant, a fishing smack, containing three Jews and a quantity of medicines, was seized on the lake, bound to Ponchatoula, and designed for the Confederates; also, a large quantity of letters from forty or fifty of the leading citizens of New Orleans to members of the Confederate Government.

The Jews were tried before Judge Peabody on the 4th, but sentence was withheld until the parties who wrote the letters had been arrested, as ordered by General Banks.

It was generally believed in New Orleans that General Butler would return to that city if not made Secretary of War.

Rev. Drs. Lecoek, Fulton and Goodrich had reached New Orleans, but on refusing to take the oath of allegiance, Gen. Banks would not allow them to land.

Water flows through "William's Cut," in front of Vicksburg, and a small steamer had passed through the canal. If it deepens and widens the Federal fleets can pass down leaving Vicksburg four miles distant. There is nothing new from Texas. The weather is very cold.

A dispatch from the army of the Potomac states that the Confederates are throwing up breastworks and rifle pits north of Fredericksburg.

The telegraph oracularly says "that it must not be inferred from the absence of interesting news from the Rappahannock, that the Federal army is in a condition of idleness."

An order has been issued by the Military Governor of the District of Columbia, directing all paroled Confederate prisoners to report themselves at once, as they will be exchanged at an early day.

Comodore Wilkes lately captured the steamer Noc Daque, a slaver, on the coast of Yucatan. The vessel had landed 1,300 slaves near Cienfuegos, and was then sold to parties at Havana, though in the name of a "Mobile merchant."

Commander Preble, recently dismissed from the navy for permitting the entrance of the Confederate steamer Oreto into Mobile, has been nominated for restoration to his rank in the service. Com. Roger Perry has also been nominated for restoration to rank.

It is said that the circulation of some of the New York papers among the army of the Potomac, will be prohibited—the papers being considered disloyal.

The National Intelligencer states that there "has been no misunderstanding between Gens. Hunter and Foster," and that the suspension of military operations in South Carolina, "has not been occasioned by disagreements between the two Generals in question."